
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**September 27, 2011
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Abrishami, Lori	Metro
Shavit, Avital	Metro
Sherwood, Arnie	System Metrics

SCAG

Asuncion, John
Kuo, Ryan
Luo, Rongsheng
Sangkapichai, Mana

Via Teleconference:

Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Cacatian, Ben	VCAPCD
Crow, Jason	ARB
Drummonds, Eyvonne	SCAQMD
DeHaan, Peter	VCTC
Castro, Fernando	Caltrans, District 7
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans, District 8
Gallo, Ilene	Caltrans, District 11
Krebs, Cindy	OCTA
O'Connor, Karina	U.S. EPA, Region 9
Estrella, Romeo	Caltrans, District 12
Walecka, Carla	TCA
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans, District 7

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Lori Abrishami, Metro, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

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3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 TCWG August 23, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- Three major revisions had been made to the draft 2013 FTIP Guidelines in response to comments received:
 - Added a description, project eligibility, and web site/link of Garvey Bonds;
 - Clarified the purpose of environmental documents to programming; and
 - Added language about RTP/SCS.

Ilene Gallo, Caltrans District 11, suggested that the 2013 FTIP Guidelines reference that SCAG also needs to work with ARB to meet the SB 375 regional GHG reduction targets and ARB has the authority to accept or reject the SCS.

4.2 RTP Update

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following on behalf of Ryan Kuo, SCAG:

- SCAG staff continued to work with stakeholders via the Plans & Programs Technical Advisory Committee to refine the 2012 RTP's alternative scenarios.
- The RTP and High-Speed Rail Subcommittees had provided direction on two key areas of the RTP, the Active Transportation and High-Speed Rail strategies. Direction from these subcommittees has been crucial in moving forward the alternatives analysis process.
- Staff will continue work on finalizing technical analysis on several other key issues and strategies, including the East-West Freight Corridor Concept and Pricing Policy Options. Staff will soon be soliciting the subcommittees for direction on these areas in order to move towards a preferred alternative in the near future.

4.3 EPA Update

Karina O'Connor, EPA, reported the following:

- EPA was working very hard to finalize approval the South Coast PM2.5 SIP by the consent decree deadline of September 30, 2011.

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- EPA proposed approval of the South Coast 8-hour Ozone SIP on September 16, 2011 and the public comment period would end on October 17, 2011.

In response to a question, Ms. O'Connor confirmed that ARB's recent revision to the Ozone transportation conformity budgets had been incorporated into the EPA's Ozone SIP proposal.

- EPA will propose a new Ozone standard in 2013 instead of reconsidering the 2008 standard as called for by President Obama on September 2, 2011.
- EPA will be implementing the 2008 Ozone standard and will move forward with the final area designations for the standard in a fairly fast timeframe. EPA will not officially request any new data for the area designation from states that have submitted proposed area designations but will accept if submitted. The 120-day letter is expected to be issued sometime this fall. In addition, two separate Ozone implementation rules will be published: The first rule, expected to be out fairly quickly, will include information about the classification threshold and the attainment deadlines; while the second rule will contain information needed to implement the standard in terms of SIP requirements.

In response to a question, Ms. O'Connor stated that EPA plans to finalize the area designation around mid 2012. In response to another question, Ms. O'Connor stated that the SIP development deadline has not been set and will likely be included in the two Ozone implementation rules.

- The Transportation Conformity Rule Restructuring Amendment is expected to be finalized soon.
- An introductory transportation conformity course had been rescheduled to be held in Phoenix, Arizona around November 7-8.
- The quantitative hot-spot analysis course had not been scheduled for Southern California but is expected to be offered in next fiscal year.

4.4 ARB Update

Jason Crow, ARB, reported the following:

- EMFAC2011 model was released to air districts, MPOs, and Caltrans yesterday and would be released to the public in the coming Friday (September 30).

In response to a question, Mr. Crow stated that the key difference is the new modular structure: a light-duty vehicle module, a heavy-duty vehicle model, and a scenario generator module which will be used by MPOs for conformity purposes.

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Detailed information about EMFAC2011 would be available upon public release of the new model.

- There are two failure-to-submit notices pertaining to the 1-hour Ozone standard Section 185 fee program requirement: one for South Coast basin and the other for the South-East Desert area. South Coast submitted its Rule 317 to EPA in February to address the requirement; while the Mojave Desert and Antelope Valley are currently developing the rule which is expected to be presented to their Boards early next year.

In response to a question, Ms. O'Connor, EPA Region 9, stated that she will send out an email to clarify the status of the high-way sanction clocks for the South Coast and the South-East Desert associated with the failure-to-submit notices. In response to another question, Ms. O'Connor and Mr. Crow stated that EPA and ARB would meet with FHWA and FTA at both headquarters and local levels shortly to discuss about the transition/grace periods for both EMFAC2011 and the latest planning assumptions.

4.5 Air Districts Update

Eyvonne Drummonds, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- SCAQMD was sponsoring a technology symposium in Diamond Bar on September 28-29 to brainstorm control strategies and measures for the 2012 AQMP.
- The next AQMP Advisory Group meeting was scheduled to be held in the District on October 20. The past AQMP Advisory Group meetings had provided an overview of the 2012 AQMP, the latest issues, and the air quality accomplishments to date.

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, provided a brief status report of the Conformity SIP submitted by VCAPCD and commented that the Conformity SIP be reviewed to ensure compliance with the 2009 Transportation Conformity SIP Guidance and to gain final approval.

In response to a question, Ms. O'Connor, EPA Region 9, stated that she did not think the submitted conformity SIPs were approvable under the current rule; due to priority and resource constraint, EPA Region 9 had not been able to review the submitted conformity SIPs; and it would take some time for EPA to identify what changes would be needed to the submitted conformity SIPs.

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Mr. Cacatian, VCAPCD, would like to continue the conformity SIP discussion in future TCWG meetings.

In response to a question, Ms. O'Connor, EPA Region 9, confirmed that a conformity SIP is not a control strategy but she will report back whether any failure to submit a conformity SIP would trigger any conformity sanctions.

5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

- On behalf of SCAG, Ms. Abrishami, Metro, announced that SCAG's Public Participation Plan for the 2012 RTP had been released for public review until November 7, 2011.
- Mike Brady, Caltrans, announced that the next Statewide Conformity Working group meeting was expected to be held via teleconference on October 13 and he would confirm the usual teleconference locations.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on October 25, 2011 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.